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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

“Advancing Reforms in Philippine Election Administration and Management” Project

GOAL

To assist Filipino partners to promote effective administration and management of Philippine elections.

OBJECTIVES

The “Advancing Reforms in Philippine Election Administration and Management” Project is implemented by the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) with funding from USAID, and has the following objectives:

- To assist the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and civil society to make the shift from manual to automated elections;
- In partnership with the Consortium for Election Reforms (CER), a Filipino non-governmental organization (NGO), to support NGOs from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to conduct voter education and election monitoring for the August 8, 2005 election in the ARMM;
- To support CER and other Filipino NGOs to more effectively inform the debate on the legislative steps for longer-term electoral reform.

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keywords :election reforms

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BACKGROUND/HISTORY

USAID's cooperative agreement with IFES has its roots in a prior project with the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), which includes IFES, to observe the May 10, 2004 Philippine national elections.

In response to an invitation issued by the Philippine government, IFES and its CEPPS partners, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI), deployed teams to the Philippines to observe the May 10, 2004 elections. CEPPS conducted that effort with an eye toward making recommendations for long-term electoral reform. After the votes were cast and counted, CEPPS engaged the myriad of organizations and individuals concerned with electoral reform to analyze the election's conduct. CEPPS held a series of roundtables that produced detailed findings and recommendations. These were captured in a final report that CEPPS issued in August 2004. The current project with IFES is an effort to act on the most pertinent recommendations where the greatest opportunities exist for reform.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Project accomplishments include the following:

- IFES co-sponsored the COMELEC Election Modernization Summit in November 2004, resulting in COMELEC's updating its strategy for its modernization program (the automation of voter registration, the vote, and the transmission of election results).
- IFES conducted an Information Technology review of COMELEC's election modernization program and long-term strategy. The review provided COMELEC with options and recommendations for ways forward to automate and manage future elections in conformity with international best practices and standards.
- IFES provided technical and financial assistance to CER to support civil society participation in the ARMM elections scheduled for August 8, 2005. In mid-June, CER convened an electoral stakeholders conference in Cotabato City where ARMM NGOs agreed to devise and implement a common plan for launching effective initiatives on voter education and election monitoring for the polls. Following the conference, IFES and CER conducted training sessions in voter education that participants will replicate in their home areas.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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